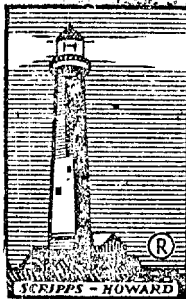


SEP 29 1964

FOIAb3b



# The WASHINGTON DAILY News

A SCRIPPS HOWARD NEWSPAPER

"Give light and the people will find their own way"

John T. O'Rourke,  
EditorRay F. Mack,  
Business Manager

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1964

1013 13th ST. N.W. (20005)

DL 7-7777

In Metropolitan Washington: By Carrier, 30c per week; \$1.30 per month. By Mail: 3 months \$3.90; 6 months, \$7.80; per year, \$15.60. Foreign Mail: \$2 month, \$24 a year. Reg. U. S. Pat Off.

## A Lesson From Tragedy

CPYRGHT

THE constructive function of criticism is to repair error—to try to prevent repetition of the same mistake or series of mistakes.

The Warren Commission, noting acts and omissions that might possibly have influenced the fate of President Kennedy, properly withholds accusation, saying "it is only from the vantage point of the present that the tragic irony" of events emerges.

These events involve an obvious lack of liaison, not only between the FBI and the Secret Service but including also the Department of State, the Immigration Department and the Central Intelligence Agency. The Government's right hand didn't know what the left hand was doing—no great novelty in this sprawling Government of ours, but with calamitous effect in this instance.

Lee Harvey Oswald, a Marine veteran, defected to Russia, lived there two years, married a Russian girl. Then he decided he wanted to come home. There was some question whether he still retained American citizenship, but this was decided in his favor. Not only that. The State Department loaned him \$435.71 for the return trip.

And no "lookout card" was issued for future reference.

And so, when he applied for a passport to visit Russia again, in June of last year, it was issued on 24 hours notice. In October, also of last year, the CIA notified the State Department Os-

wald had visited the Soviet Embassy in Mexico. In November the FBI sent in a report that Oswald had been arrested in New Orleans in a fist fight while passing out "Hands off Cuba" pamphlets.

These repeated acts might have branded Oswald as a disloyal and unstable character—had they been recorded in the proper files. It would not have been necessary to anticipate Oswald was capable of such a frightful act as the assassination of a President. He might at least have been kept under observation as a suspicious character, capable of acts of subversion.

Yet neither the Secret Service nor the Dallas Police Department even knew he was living in Dallas—and working in a building which overlooked the route of the President's motorcade.

Legislation consolidating agencies such as the FBI and the Secret Service, or at least redefining some of their responsibilities, may come out of this tragedy and the meticulous report concerning it. But many of the flaws revealed do not require legislation. They concern matters of routine which demand immediate check and remedy.

It may be assumed, we think, that this general tightening now is in progress—that it had, in fact, started long before the Warren Report was issued. But there should be a prompt survey on progress, perhaps by the high-level committee on protection just appointed by President Johnson. Nothing should be taken for granted or left to chance.